



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

IMMIGRATION LAWYER SENTENCED FOR LABOR/IMMIGRATION FRAUD

Lawyer Prepared False Immigration Document

Greenbelt, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. sentenced Maqsood Mir, 52, an immigration lawyer practicing in Potomac, Maryland, to 78 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release in connection with his April 14, 2005 conviction by a federal jury of immigration fraud related to the filing of false immigration documents that allowed illegal aliens to enter and/or remain in the United States. The Judge also ordered Mir to pay a \$25,000 fine and Mir Law Associates to pay a \$200,000 fine.

The jury determined that Maqsood Mir; his law firm, Mir Law Associates, LLC; Bajwa, 39, of Herndon, Virginia, a businessman and sponsoring employer; and Bajwa's construction company, New Superstar Corporation, were guilty of various charges of filing false labor certifications. Mir Law Associates, Bajwa and New Superstar Corporation were also convicted of conspiracy to submit false labor certifications and substantive immigration fraud counts.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein stated "This case demonstrates our resolve to hold accountable unethical professionals who take advantage of the trust placed in them by those with no knowledge of the law, and to ensure the fair application of the immigration laws in the United States."

Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Labor, said "Today's sentencing of this corrupt attorney and his associates brings an end to their scheme to defraud governmental programs. My office is committed to continuing our close working relationship with other law enforcement agencies to protect the integrity of the foreign labor certification process."

According to trial testimony, Mir, Bajwa and others took advantage of a program administered by the Department of Labor and the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services in which aliens, upon receiving an approved labor certification, could enter or

remain in the United States in order to work for a United States employer. Testimony showed that beginning in 1998 and continuing until 2003, Mir and Bajwa falsified labor certification applications to make it appear as if the aliens really existed and that they were to be sponsored by and work for U.S. employers, when in fact many of those employers knew nothing about the aliens. Testimony showed that some of the alien's names were fictitious, and Mir and Bajwa offered for sale approved immigration documents to the highest bidding aliens.

Bajwa is scheduled to be sentenced on October 7, 2005. Co-defendant Abdul Javaid, is scheduled to be sentenced on October 3 2005 and codefendant, Zulfiqar Ali, was sentenced on September 19, 2005 to 15 months imprisonment.

United States Attorney Rosenstein commended the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for their investigation. Mr. Rosenstein praised Assistant U.S. Attorneys David I. Salem and Chan Park, who prosecuted the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.